

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 2-19 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over USP 6,609,092 to Ghitza et al. in view of USP 6,417,435 to Chantzis. The Office Action recognizes that Ghitza does not disclose the apparatus being an image forming apparatus or the regression being multiple regression. The Office Action asserts that Chantzis cures the deficiencies of Ghitza.

Applicants include a translation of the priority document of the present application, JP 2000/396769 filed December 27, 2000. Chantzis has a filing date of February 28, 2001 which is after the December 27, 2000 priority date of JP '769.

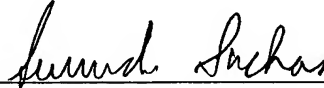
Chantzis claims priority to provisional application 60/185,509 filed February 28, 2000. However, the provisional application does not support the disclosure in Chantzis of a multiple regression analysis. Thus, Chantzis is not prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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